(c) and (d) In terms of 7th Schedule to the Constitution of India, law and order being a State subject, State Govts./UT administrations are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime including counterfeiting of currencies and for prosecuting the criminals through the machinery of their law enforcement agencies. However, Central Government supports the State Governments in their endeavours to investigate serious crimes. Appropriate action is taken as per law against the persons involved in the circulation of fake currency and hawala business.

Liberalization of insurance sector

2414. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring comprehensive legislation to lay a road map for full liberalization of insurance sector including future privatization of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and the public sector general insurance companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all legislations related to insurance will be superseded by the new legislation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what provisions of existing insurance laws have been obsolete?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Government has introduced the following two Bills in the Parliament:

(i) Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2008 to ament the Insurance, Act, 1938, the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999; and

(ii) Life Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2008 to amend the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

The proposed amendments are aimed at bringing improvement and revision of laws relating to the insurance business and deletion of redundant provisions. It also incorporates certain provisions to provide Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority with flexibility to discharge its functions effectively and efficiently.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Funds for earthquake relief in Gujarat

2415. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested for financial assistance/for allocation of funds for relief during earthquake situation in several districts of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and its present status;

(c) the funds allocated and amount spent for above said work as on date; and

(d) the status of the same and reasons for delay, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Government of Gujarat had requested for allocation of funds for earthquake relief during 2001 and 2002.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs. 500 crore was provided in 2000-01 and Rs. 967.37 crore in 2001-02 for immediate relief as per norms of National Calamity Contingency Fund and an amount of Rs. 750 crore as non-plan grant for earthquake relief in 2001-02. The State Government has reported full utilization of the same.

Reopening of Ashok Paper Mill

2416. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Ashok Paper Mills at Jogighopa in Assam;

(b) whether Government has any proposal for opening of the said mill;

(c) whether Government will concede to the promise of the Assam Accord, 1985; and

(d) if so, how and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) and (b) The production operations of Ashok Paper Mill are suspended at present. It was decided by the Government to conduct Techno-Economic Feasibility Report and Detailed Project Report for revival of Ashok Paper Mill. Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited (HPC) invited bid for engaging a consultant for preparation of Techno Economic Feasibility Report and Detailed Project Report for revival of Ashok Parer Mill. Accordingly, M/s. Sandwell Consultancy Engineers Private Limited, Mumbai has been engaged on 10.09.2008 and their report is expected in four months.

(c) and (d) The Government of India is a signatory to the Assam Accord. The revival process of Ashok Paper Mill has already been initiated.

Pay revision for employees of PSU oil companies

2417. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the pay revision of Public Sector Oil Companies' employees in Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) etc., is over-due as their employees' organizations have since long submitted their demands;